Medicine Hat
The Gas City

Alberta's TOP 35 EMPLOYERS 2008

MEDIA RELEASE

City of Medicine Hat - 580 First Street S.E. - Medicine Hat, Alberta, T1A 8E6 - (403) 502-8071

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MAY 5, 2008

SIX SELECTED FOR CIVIC RECOGNITION AWARDS

Awards to be presented May 21 at City Hall

Medicine Hat – Six deserving Medicine Hat residents are being recognized for their outstanding contributions to the community.

Civic Recognition Awards are presented to individuals who enhance the quality of life in Medicine Hat by their dedication, activities, and/or accomplishments in the areas of culture, environment, humanitarianism, community inclusion, and sports/recreation.

Albert William (Billy) Jones is receiving the Cultural award for sharing his extensive professional music background, skills and performing arts knowledge with several generations of Medicine Hat and district musicians.

Michael O'Shea is receiving the Environmental award for volunteering his time to support such activities such as recycling, community clean-up, alternative transportation, "walk to school", and *Go Green* and *Earth Day* activities.

Norma J. Smith is receiving the Humanitarian award for her vast number of volunteer endeavors, including her extraordinary commitment to the Canadian National Institute for the Blind. Norma's interest in the community is demonstrated by her involvement with the many committees she serves on or has been involved with in the past.

Randy Stolz and Del Phillion are receiving the Community Inclusion award for their dedication to the weekly ice-skating session where they "play hockey" with students from a special needs school who would not have the opportunity to play hockey otherwise.

Peter Schori is receiving the Sports/ Recreational award for being an exceptional leader in the area of sporting athletics, community involvement and youth development and for his involvement with the Alberta Marlin Aquatics Club.

The Civic Recognition Awards will be presented Wednesday, May 21 at 7 p.m. in City Hall Council Chambers. The public is welcome to attend.

An Awards Selection Committee, made up of representatives from the City of Medicine Hat's various advisory boards, recommends recipients to City Council.

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BACKGROUNDER: 2007 CIVIC RECOGNITION RECIPIENTS AND PHOTOS

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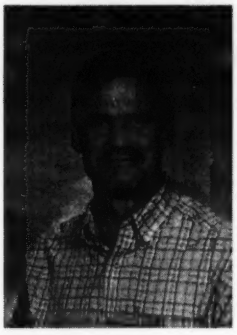
2007 CIVIC RECOGNITION RECIPIENTS

CULTURAL: Albert William (Billy) Jones

Billy Jones has shared his gift and love of music with several generations of Medicine Hat musicians. He has done so without charge or expectation of reward. Since his arrival in Medicine Hat in 1978 Billy has played with a number of local groups who play many charity and volunteer performances. In 1990, Billy was a founding member of the Medicine Hat and District Live Music Club and was its President from 1990 to 1994. Many of the members have gone on to become professional musicians and community leaders. Billy receives many invitations from professional musicians to join their shows and tours and in 2004 joined Stompin' Tom Connors for his national tour. As a leader in the Live Music Club, Billy assured the Club's support for youth music programs and was instrumental in the Club acquisition of a portable sound stage trailer to be used at community events.

ENVIRONMENTAL: Michael O'Shea



Michael O'Shea was nominated by his peers in the environment category through his activities relating to nature study. As a biologist and a teacher, Michael uses his knowledge as a member of the Society of Grasslands Naturalists. He organizes the monthly guest speakers and plans and leads the field trips, chairs the meetings all of which bring residents of Medicine Hat in closer connection to natural surroundings. Several North American birding books list his name for recording unusual sightings and nesting habits of birds. As a resident, Michael volunteers his time to support recycling, community clean-up, alternative transportation, "walk-to-school", and other *Go for Green* and *Earth Day.* Michael is a conscientious and collaborative person who works tenaciously on activities he feels are important

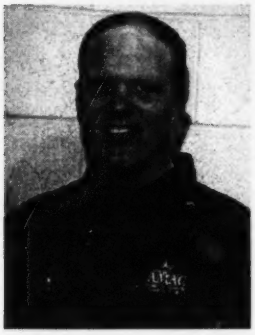
HUMANITARIAN: Norma J. Smith

Norma J. Smith uses her personal learning and experience to show others that there is life after vision loss and that independence is achievable through adaptations and alternatives. Norma's interest in the community is demonstrated by her involvement with the many committees she serves on or has been involved with in the past and embraces consideration and respect for life and community. Norma was instrumental in running the Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB) office in Medicine Hat and volunteered her time in the office from 1991 to 2001 doing volunteer coordination and administrative tasks. Norma still offers a helping hand in all the special events held through the CNIB. Norma is passionate and ensures people are treated with respect and equality no matter what their position or place in the community.

COMMUNITY INCLUSION: Randy Stolz and Del Phillion

Randy Stolz and Del Phillion have no shortage of people standing in line to sign a letter or write their own in support of these two Civic Recognition Award winners. Randy and Del continue to provide a unique and invaluable service for young people now and those whose lives they've touched during the past eight years. Randy and Del have faithfully participated in weekly ice-skating session and "play hockey" with students from Georges P. Vanier School. All these special needs students would likely never have the chance to play team hockey. Del loves hockey and overcame his own personal limitations to find a purpose in life. Randy gathers the team around Del who is outfitted in his goalie gear and gives the kids encouragement and direction like any hockey coach would. They are two deserving people who have done something significant for deserving young people who might otherwise never have such an experience in their lives.

SPORTS AND RECREATIONAL: Peter Schori



Peter Schori, Head Coach of the Alberta Marlin Aquatic Club (AMAC) is an exceptional leader in the area of sporting athletics, community involvement and youth development. Since his arrival in our community seven years ago, AMAC membership has doubled. 75 of the swimmers now perform competitively. In April 2008 under Peter's directive, three female AMAC members qualified in the Olympic Trials and one male qualified for the Canadian Beijing Olympic Team. This speaks volumes of Peter's dedication and ability to bring forth the best in his athletes. Peter is an ardent supporter outside of AMAC as well, when his athletes perform in track and field, band, music and drama, Peter can often be seen at the sidelines. Peter's philosophy for his athletes includes strong scholastic performance and he insists his athletes keep him up to date on their school marks. Peter's dedication has led to not only the incredible physical and mental development of his athletes but to their character and self-esteem as well.